



Sold by donation - Your vendor pays up to 50C per copy - Buy from yellow badged vendors only



<PUBLISHER>
Bissell Centre, Edmonton

<INTERIM EDITOR>
Donna Kerr

<DESIGN & PRODUCTION>
Pieter de Vos, Jr.
pdevos@bissellcentre.org

<DISTRIBUTION>
Ron MacLellan

<PROOFREADER>
Fred Grey

<COVER ART>
Pieter de Vos

EDITORIAL OFFICES &
EDMONTON DISTRIBUTION:

Bissell Centre, 10527-96 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2H6
Phone: 423-2285 Ext. 139
Fax: 429-7008
rmacellan@bissellcentre.org

OUR VOICE is published to provide
an income opportunity for
economically marginalized people
in our society while
communicating their issues to the
public.

OUR VOICE is a NON-PROFIT
program that survives on vendors,
advertising contributions and Tax
Deductible Donations.

If you have any concerns about
vendor behavior call our
distribution team at:
#423-2285 Ext. 139

ADVERTISING

For advertising rates and related
information, please contact

Ron @ 423-2285 Ext 139

MAR. 2003
VOL. 3 NO. 9

Our Voice invites your contri-
butions and input.

Letters sent to the editor are
assumed to be for publication,
unless otherwise indicated.

Our Voice welcomes written
submissions (particularly
those on PC or Mac compati-
ble diskettes), cartoons, pho-
tographs or artwork.

Our Voice cannot accept
responsibility for any submis-
sion. No part of this newspa-
per may be reproduced in any
form without written permis-
sion from Our Voice.

Opinions expressed in this
newspaper are not necessarily
those of Our Voice, the editors
or publishers.

Our Voice is a member of the
North American Street
Newspaper Association
(NASNA).

Photo: Bob Hunter



What's the Message?

Editorial...

During the February 15 march, we were stopped underneath this sign for about 10 minutes. I remember thinking: "This march is the right message." But after I got home and got my brain warmed up again, I began to rethink and revisit some doubts I've had for quite awhile now. My thinking is still evolving and I'm not totally clear. But in talking to friends and fellow former protesters, I know I'm not alone in my questions.

The right message is important, but what was the message from February 15 (or F15 as the organizers like to call it)? What exactly was I participating in as I

walked along freezing? Was it an anti-war protest? Was it a peace march? Or, as the BBC called it—a "peace protest." I certainly wasn't protesting peace, and I don't think anyone else was on Saturday. What we call things is very important.

When you get millions of people to go out and march (or protest), you have a movement. This movement is very young, and its roots are in the anti-globalization and anti-war groups. But is *anti* the message we want to deliver to the world. Is being anti-war enough?

When we are anti, when we protest, we give the power to whoever or whatever we are anti. They still set the agenda. We are left reacting. Answering their agenda. We spend too much time saying what we don't want. It's easier this way. It is always

easier to criticize than to suggest. It is easier to follow than to lead.

But it's tiring, too. There will always be another battle, another fight, another something to be anti about. And it gets harder and harder to rally the troops when they have battle fatigue. So to rally them, there must be a crisis. And the crisis has to keep getting more and more severe to keep people involved. Don't get me wrong, anti does have a place when you have nothing else. And I used to be fervently and enthusiastically anti. But I'm not anymore. You see, I'm getting peaceful in my old age.

An anti movement will wind down after whatever you're anti has passed. If you win, and anti is "win-lose" by its very construction, then you're left with the

This movement is very young, and its roots are in the anti-globalization and anti-war groups. But is "anti" the message we want to deliver to the world? Is being anti-war enough?

absence of what you protested. But nature and dictators abhor a vacuum and rush in to fill it. So it's back to the streets for a new battle. This is why the large movements of our time have come and gone. We all had to rest up in between.

I'm tired of fighting. I'm tired of reacting. I'm tired of voting against. I want to be involved in a movement that leads. I want a movement with a vision of what can be. I don't have the energy anymore to protest, but I do have the energy to build a dream. If that dream is world peace, I'm there!

If the world is going to get to peace, we have to start talking about what it would look like. How would it work? If we were in charge, what would we do? It isn't enough to protest - we need to supply some answers. We need to say: "We are marching for peace and this is how we are going to get there. This is what it will look like. This is what we want." The great leaders of our time were not anti. They made their own agenda. "I have a dream."

So for me, the right place is planet Earth, the right time is now, and the right message is world peace. That's what I was marching for on F15.

Donna Kerr

SPECIAL:

Seeking Refuge (Pg.6)

Danger: Chickenhawk (Pg. 7)

Anti-war Posters (Pg. 8)

The Rising Tide (Pg. 9)

The Romanow Report (Pg. 13)

REGULAR:

Letters to the Editor (Pg. 4)

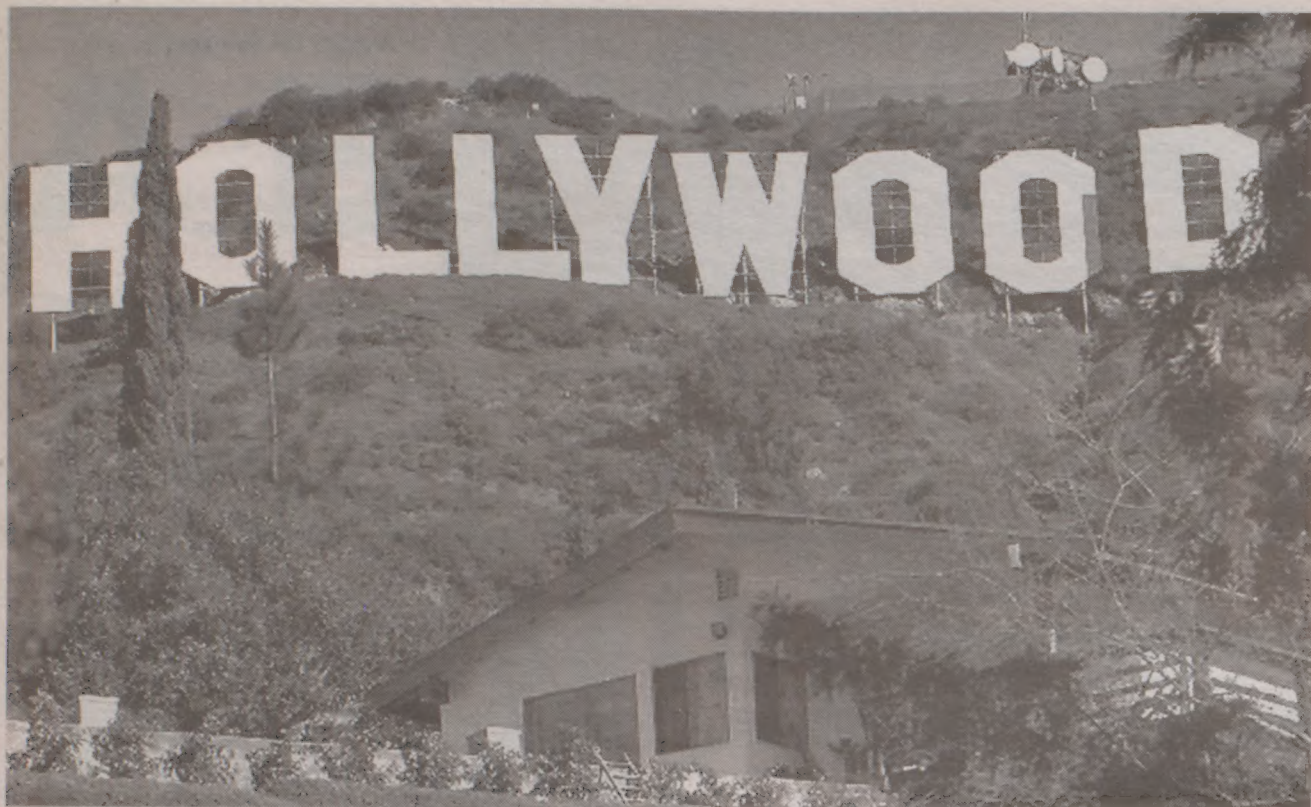
A Bad R.R.A.P. (Pg. 5)

Movie Review: The Hours (Pg.11)

Poetry (Pg. 12)

The People's Columnist (Pg.14)

> Mar. features <



AN L.A. STORY

In May 2001, a landmark agreement was reached between billionaire real estate developers and the residents of the area they wanted to develop. The developers were the LA Arena Land Company, owned by billionaires Phillip Anschutz and Rupert Murdoch. The residents were represented by a group called the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice (called the Coalition for short). The area was downtown Los Angeles, specifically the Figueroa Corridor, a forty-block area where over 200,000 poor and working-class people live in many diverse neighborhoods. It also includes L.A.'s "skid row" and the southern campus of the University of Southern California.

Formed in 1999, the Coalition is made up of 30 labour and community organizations and hundreds of local residents. They were not opposed to the development that could bring desperately needed jobs to their neighborhoods. They did want to be sure they were included, and the agreement they negotiated ensures they will be.

As part of their \$1 billion, 4 million square-foot LA Sports and Entertainment District, the developers agreed to include:

Local Hiring/Job-Training: 50% of the 5,500 new jobs will be hired locally through a community-run job training and placement center funded with \$100,000 in seed money from the developer.

Living Wage Jobs: 70% of the new jobs will be unionized and/or pay a living wage.

Affordable Housing: A minimum of 20% of housing units must be affordable to low income people. In addition, the developer will provide a revolving loan of \$650,000 at 0% interest to build new affordable units by community non-profits.

Parks and Recreation: The developer will provide \$1 million for parks and recreation facilities and between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to involve community members in site identification and planning.

Environmental Planning: An ongoing Coalition Advisory Committee will address such issues as construction, traffic, pedestrian safety, waste management, air quality and "green" buildings.

Parking: The developer will help establish preferential parking and pay resident parking costs for 5 years.

Managing Success

The three-year-old Coalition faced two challenges after its victory. The first was to build a system to supply and train the 2,250 workers for the new jobs. The second was to manage the tension between the new development (that brings needed jobs) and the threat that the same investment will ultimately gentrify the area and displace local residents.

After the development was announced (including the news that the developers would be buying an NFL team to play at the Staples Center), the local real estate market went into overdrive. The pressure to push working-class tenants out and move higher-paying tenants in was intense. This was in addition to the pressure already present for student housing as a result of University expansion.

The Coalition decided it needed knowledge, and the best way to get this knowledge was to find out what had worked in other places. They formed a research team made up of 2 UCLA researchers and members of the Coalition's Jobs Committee and Housing Committee. The first thing they did was a literature search to identify "best practices." Then they sent an 8-member team (2 of the members were local residents) to visit other organizations around the U.S. What they would learn proved to be timely indeed.

The research team found that no existing job-training program would fit their unique situation-having guaranteed jobs. So they decided to engage community members in a 16-week planning process to design their own job training program.

At the same time, the planners would be learning leadership skills.

On the housing front, the research team had learned that forming "Displacement-Free Zones" had been effective in other cities. The zones allow a group to concentrate their resources on a manageable area. The Coalition decided to use what they learned in their trip to form a Displacement-Free Zone around the local elementary school. Over one summer, the school had lost 150 students due to displacement. Their short-term strategy was to focus on legal defence of tenants in this area. Their long-term strategy is to build a foundation for new policies to protect tenants from displacement throughout Los Angeles.

At the same time the Coalition was busy with these ventures, L.A. City Council had been busy too. Four months after their research trip, Coalition members read in the newspaper that city council had passed a Redevelopment Plan for the corridor. Council had short-circuited their own community consultation process and fast-tracked the plan without any input from the Coalition. The Coalition feels that the city's plan does not include enough protections for the residents.

To meet this new challenge, the Coalition organized a People's Hearing with city councillors that was attended by hundreds of local residents. They teamed up with other organizations to sue the city and launch a campaign to amend the city plan called Share the Wealth. This challenge is still unfolding.

While the Coalition is facing more battles, it is building on its foundation of success. And it's providing a model that can be used elsewhere. The Coalition has proven that you can negotiate successfully with developers. It's proven you can organize diverse inner-city neighborhoods and give them a strong voice. As a resident puts it: "The basic concept is to be an effective voice, a mover and shaker as opposed to a pip-squeak noisemaker."

Donna Kerr

What does "No displacement" mean?

In the Coalition's *Share the Wealth* campaign, they define what "No displacement" means:

■ Replacement housing should be built up front, on a one-for-one basis. Replacement housing should be affordable to persons of the same or lower income level as those who were displaced.

■ If replacement housing must be built on the site of demolished housing, residents should be provided with relocation assistance. The City should also provide effective case management to ensure that they are provided with long-term affordable housing.

■ Relocation should always be provided to units with rents not exceeding 30% of a family or individual's income. If such units are not available, rents should be subsidized until long-term affordable housing can be provided.

■ Residential hotels must be recognized as permanent affordable housing to which all tenants' rights and replacement housing requirements apply.

■ Recognize homeless people as Project Area residents who are eligible for relocation benefits if displaced.

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles gives one the feeling of the future more strongly than any city I know of. A bad future, too, like something out of Fritz Lang's feeble imagination.

HENRY MILLER

If you want to take someone's home away, you must replace it with a new and better one. You must build the new one before you destroy the old one. The new one will be at the same or lower rent than the one you are taking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Letters can be mailed to:

> 10527-96 Street,
> Edmonton, AB
> T5H 2H6
> Email: rmacellan@bissellcentre.org
> Fax: (780) 429-7008

The 4th Movement

M MOVEMENT

Change means movement. Movement means friction. Only in the frictionless vacuum of a nonexistent abstract world can movement or change occur without that abrasive friction of conflict.

SAUL ALINSKY



On February 15, the bystanders were seeing, they were hearing and they were speaking the evils of war. And they sided with the victims.

Judith Lewis Herman is a psychiatrist who works with survivors of trauma. But she also has lots to say about politics and social movements. In this excerpt from her book *Trauma and Recovery*, she speaks of the necessity to have a political movement to support victims of trauma. She identifies three social movements to date that brought trauma into the realm of the "speakeable." One can hope that the worldwide marches on February 15 reflect a new movement – indeed, a fourth movement. This time, the movement is global. Millions of people, many who have never marched before, took to the streets. The bystanders were taking sides. On February 15, the bystanders were seeing, they were hearing and they were speaking the evils of war. And they sided with the victims. The fourth movement may provide the social context to affirm and protect the victims of war (military or economic) on a global scale. It just might bring healing to the world.

To study psychological trauma is to come face to face both with human vulnerability in the natural world and with the capacity for evil in human nature. To study psychological trauma means bearing witness to horrible events. When the events are natural disasters or "acts of God," those who bear witness sympathize readily with the victim. But when the traumatic events are of human design, those who bear witness are caught in the conflict between victim and perpetrator. It is morally impossible to remain neutral in this conflict. The bystander is forced to take sides. It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. He appeals to the universal desire to see, hear, and speak no evil. The victim, on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain. The victim demands action, engagement, and remembering.

To hold traumatic reality in consciousness requires a social context that affirms and protects the victim and that joins victim and witness in a common alliance. For the individual victim, this social context is created by relationships with friends, lovers, and family. For the larger society, the social context is created by political movements that give voice to the disempowered.

The systematic study of psychological trauma therefore depends on the support of a political movement. Indeed, whether such study can be pursued or discussed in public is itself a political question. The study of war trauma becomes legitimate only in a context that challenges the sacrifice of

young men in war. The study of trauma in sexual and domestic life becomes legitimate only in a context that challenges the subordination of women and children. In the absence of strong political movements for human rights, the active process of bearing witness inevitably gives way to the active process of forgetting. Repression, dissociation, and denial are phenomena of social as well as individual consciousness.

Three times over the past century, a particular form of psychological trauma has surfaced into public consciousness. Each time, the investigation of that trauma has flourished in affiliation with a political movement. The first to emerge was hysteria, the archetypal psychological disorder of women. Its study grew out of the republican, anticlerical political movement of the late nineteenth century in France. The second was shell shock or combat neurosis. Its study began in England and the United States after the First World War and reached a peak after the Vietnam War. Its political context was the collapse of a cult of war and the growth of an antiwar movement. The last and most recent trauma to come into public awareness is sexual and domestic violence. Its political context is the feminist movement in Western Europe and North America.

Excerpt from *Trauma and Recovery* by Judith Lewis Herman

We need a movement to support the victims of poverty

Herman's work can help to explain why "blaming the victim" is so common when poverty is discussed. Without a strong social movement that says poverty is wrong, it is too easy for the bystanders to side with the perpetrator. For siding with the perpetrator is easy—you simply have to do nothing. To side with the victims of poverty would mean to acknowledge and share their pain. And take action to do something about it.

So far, there has been no movement to support the victims of poverty. We think it's time for one.

Donna Kerr

The Iraq Solution

There is a solution to the Iraq situation that the American government wouldn't like. First of all we could have the Arab League set up a way

for Saddam to leave Iraq without prosecution and place a "dummy" government led by the exiled opposition parties. Then have the U.N. place more inspectors in Iraq to get rid of harmful weapons such as chemical and biological weapons. Plus put in peacekeepers from the Arab League to keep the security. All of this minus the States, Britain

and their hidden agendas.

Most of the insecurity in the Arab world is actually caused by the U.S. whose economy is controlled by the oil that comes from there.

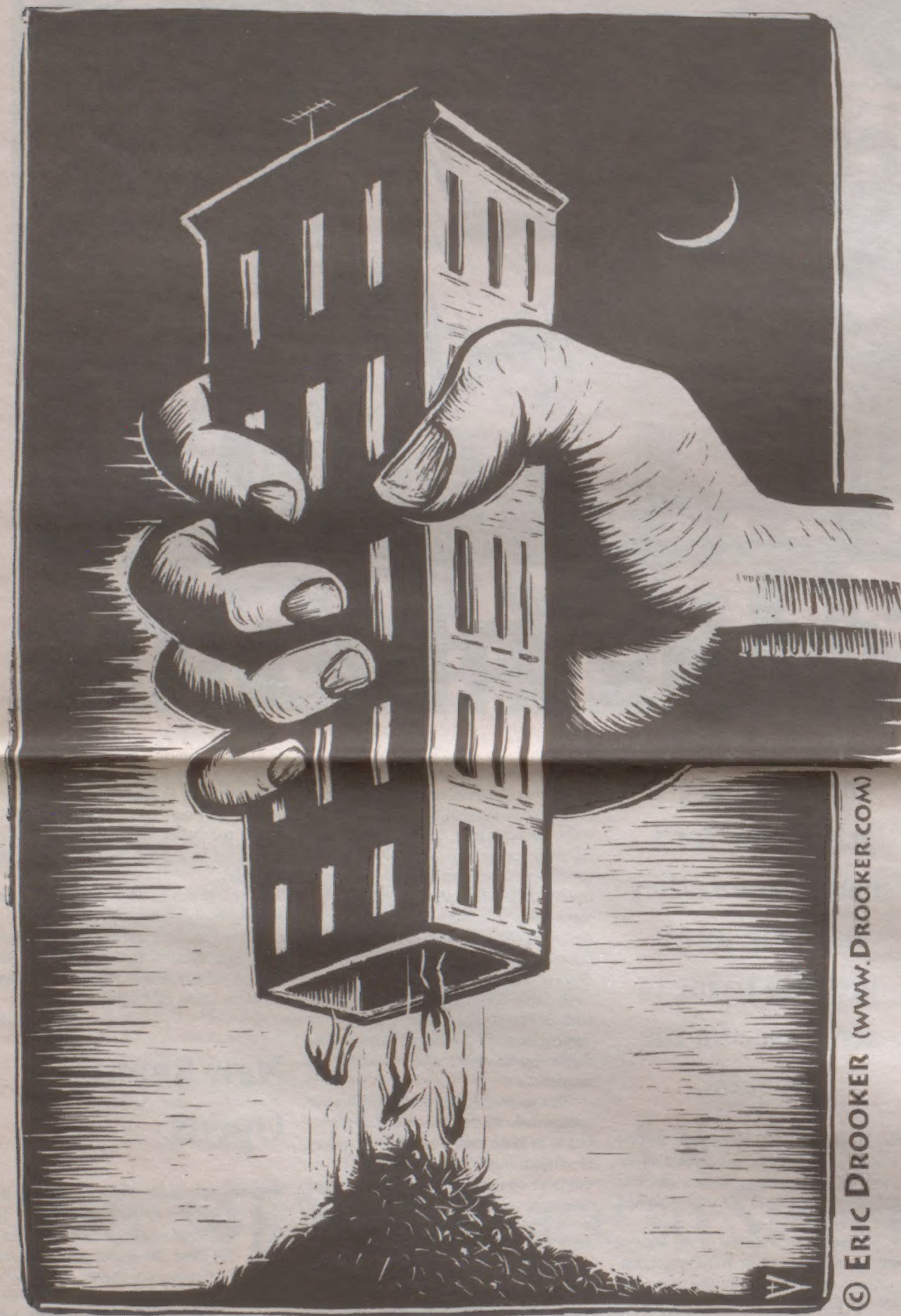
American military action in Iraq would only lead to more world terrorism. To go further, by the Americans own description of

terrorism, they are committing terrorism in Iraq.

When all hostilities are done, the Americans should pay for reconstruction in Iraq.

Jody Halliday-Vezina

A BAD R.R.A.P.



I went for a tour of a rental property today with the owners, four city inspectors, a representative from a poverty activist group, a representative of a local politician, a Sun reporter and a policeman. It was a crowded viewing and an interesting encounter. This was the fourth inspection of this property since last July, with nothing more substantive in the way of recommendations for improvement than change the size of a window, take a small padlock off a basement window, remove a chair and a portable dishwasher from the porch and move a smoke detector — hardly something worth the time of four salaried civic employees, a

judge's warrant and a policeman, one would think.

Gordon Stamp, owner of the property, has had a lot of contact with Edmonton's Safe Housing Committee since May 2000, when he got an inspection and report on a house he was contemplating buying. In February of 2002, he and his wife moved into the house after creating living quarters for themselves and three small self-contained rental units. So far, so good, no complaints. Then Gordon applied for a RRAP Grant (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program) from the CMHC administered by the City of Edmonton Community Services Department. This grant

gives forgivable loans to landlords currently renting to low income tenants provided the units continue to be rented to low-income tenants for five years. It is the income level of tenants that determines funding qualifications. The grant application was refused.

Our Voice carried a story about Mr. Stamp at that time and his questions about the disbursement of this grant funding. As well as being refused any information about anyone else who has been funded by this program, Mr. Stamp has had his property inspected in February 2002, June 2002, November 2002 and February 2003. In between inspections, lawyers from both sides disputed whether the

Safe Housing Committee had the need or the authority to inspect Mr. Stamp's personal quarters, as well as those offered for rent. This is a lot of taxpayer dollars to be spent on the property of someone who does support the concept of the Safe Housing Committee—which is to ensure that slum landlords do not take advantage of those who need a roof over their heads.

I viewed the property. The basement suite triggered my sense of claustrophobia (those low ceilings make me crazy). Otherwise, it was in decent repair, and from a tenant's standpoint, convenient and comfortable. The two small upstairs suites were delightful, bright, airy and clean with new fixtures and cabinets in the kitchen and bathrooms, new flooring and pristine paint. Quite tasty. And Mr. Stamp is renting to low-income tenants. He says his basement couple, who had been living on the riverbank, brought all their belongings in a shopping cart. I don't presume to know anything at all about structural issues in the building code. That would have been an issue to be settled before purchase, something I suspect Gordon, as a realtor, would have been very careful about. From a tenant's point of view, these are nice spaces at reasonable prices. In the inner city where a single room with a bathroom down the hall costs at least \$300 a month, these completely self-contained units at \$400 including utilities are reasonable.

So what's the hang-up with RRAP? And why is the City investing so many man hours in repeated inspections of this property? Why is it so hard to find out who is actually getting this funding? A neighbour of Gordon's, who also owns a multi-person accommodation, but doesn't want to identify himself after seeing what has happened to Gordon, told us that his property was inspected for the first time in years after applying for RRAP funding. Is it because Mr. Stamp is a confident and self-assured young man who is not intimidated by the exercise of the authority of building inspectors? Has he made someone angry? Or has something happened to this RRAP funding that we are not supposed to know about?

Information on this grant is available in Peter Goldring's office, the Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre-East. Affordable low-income housing has been an issue that Peter Goldring has spoken out about for many years. He has been advocating grant relief for the purpose of upgrading existing housing stocks in the inner-city for landlords, as well as non-profits, for as long as I have known him. This program definitely has the earmarks of one of his babies. Why isn't it working? If for no other reason, Edmontonians should be questioning the simple costs in man hours and lawyers' bills of these repeated inspections that appear to be nothing more than a way of harassing someone who is asking too many questions. Wouldn't simply answering the questions be more cost effective? If anybody has received one of these grants I would be very interested in hearing about it. If anyone else has gone through Mr. Stamp's ordeal by Safety Inspection I would like to hear from you also. You can contact me at: tmcbryan@shaw.ca

Theresa McBryan

Correction: In last month's column, entitled *No Clipboards*, I unintentionally referred to a fragile and "disempowered" group as being "disemboweled." I apologize for the needless pain my spellchecker has inflicted. Ouch!

HOUSING H

... we can bear with great philosophy the sufferings of others, especially if we do not actually see them.

ALBION FELLOWS BACON
(1865-1933), U.S.

Social worker and
housing reform advocate.

R REFUGE

Behold now this vast city; a city of **refuge**, the mansion house of liberty, encompassed and surrounded with his protection; the shop of war hath not there more anvils and hammers working, to fashion out the plates and instruments of armed justice in defence of beleaguered truth, than there be pens and hands there, sitting by their studious lamps, musing, searching, revolving new notions.

JOHN MILTON



SEEKING REFUGE

Overcrowding at the only emergency shelter strictly for homeless women has left many out in the cold. The Women's Emergency Accommodation Shelter (WEAC) in the converted flatiron building on the corner of Jasper Avenue and 96 Street has 66 beds and nine mats to accommodate a total of 75 women. According to Tanya Tellier, program manager at WEAC, they are regularly running at 118% (or more) of their capacity.

Although the city has money for a mat program, Tellier said they have run into a problem trying to rent space for the program. "There are a number of places just behind here, but they don't want to rent to us," she said. "We had the 'not in my back yard' problem." Because of that, there will be no mat program this winter.

Hope Mission has lent WEAC the use of 10 of their beds until the end of the winter, but Tellier said women are reluctant to go there. "It's just like pulling teeth. We have difficulty keeping the beds full there. There is a certain comfort and social network here," she said.

The common smoking area of WEAC is filled with women playing board games, smoking and chattering above the sound of the television. A few converse using sign language. Unlike the shelters for men, and the George Spady Centre which houses men and women under the influence of alcohol and drugs, the women don't have to go out for the day. They can stay inside 24 hours a day.

Due to fire regulations, WEAC can't take in more than the 75 women, but they have a policy of not turning away anyone. Women who can't have a bed or a mat are allowed to come in and spend the night sitting up in the dining room. During the really cold spell, Tellier said they had some

Although the city has money for a mat program...they have run into a problem trying to rent space for the program.

women sitting up night after night for over a week. To help them, she created an in-house turnover, making women who had beds give them up to the ones who had been up for days.

Marlene Trotter is one of the women who spent a few days at WEAC when temperatures dropped. Usually, she sleeps outside and catches a few winks on the pews of the House of Refuge Mission when they are open between six and nine p.m. daily. "The laundry room was full. The TV room was full (of mats). I had to sleep on a mat and it takes hours because you can't get one till after hours. Then they wake you up at 6:30 when they start doing laundry," said Trotter. "The House of Refuge is probably the only peaceful sleep I get."

Brenda Redcrow has been homeless for two years. She said she walks the streets by night and sleeps in bus shelters by day. "I tried the shelter, but you gotta sit up in chairs all night," she said.

Tellier said there is no quick fix. Even if the city opened up a number of other shelters for women, they would soon be filled

because many of the women who come to the shelter can't manage their daily living. More than 50 per cent have mental health issues. Although there are new women coming every month, a number have lived at the shelter for months. Tellier said the new housing proposed by the city will help, but many of the women who stay at the shelter are afraid of change and of being alone in the community. "They don't have the confidence to give it a shot," she said.

Recently the population in the shelter was shaken by the death of one of the women. Rumours of a murder circulated the shelter and the streets, but it was suicide not murder.

"It was very tragic because it was so unexpected. We had no idea the woman was in so much pain. There was no history of suicidal behaviour," Tellier said. The woman's body was discovered when her roommate, who is deaf, woke up the morning of February 8. Police started investigating it as a homicide, then called it a suspicious death before determining it was a suicide.

The woman was Aboriginal, so Tellier had an elder come to pray and smudge the room, and she held a memorial service at the shelter. Sixty women attended. Tellier also called a meeting to inform the other women what had happened. They had been afraid because they had heard rumours.

Policies at WEAC have undergone some modifications during the past six months since Tellier has come on staff. Tellier has implemented consequences for violent behaviour. The first time, a woman is evicted for a month, then for a longer time if the behaviour is repeated. But there is no longer anyone who is on indefinite eviction, and those who were on the list as evicted indefinitely have been given another chance.

Tellier has also had to lay down policies

to control prostitution. Prostitutes are allowed to stay at the shelter, but will be evicted if they are seen working on the street outside the shelter. For a first offense, they are evicted for a week; the second time for two weeks.

"The few women who 'work' are just as much in need as the others," said Tellier.

Transgendered individuals are also accepted at WEAC if they are older than 30, but they are not allowed off the second floor where the offices are located.

Linda Dumont

New Shelter Opens

The first shelter on the south side of Edmonton opened on February 4 at the Strathcona Baptist Church, 8318-104 Street. The shelter, called The Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter, will remain open until the end of winter. The shelter's target group is young adults aged 18 to 30, but people of any age can stay. Located in the church gymnasium, the shelter's capacity is 36 men and women. It is open between 10:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and provides a bag lunch when people arrive.

The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund provided the funding which totals up to \$99,000. The shelter is sponsored by a group of seven area churches. The shelter will remain at the Strathcona Baptist Church until March 15. It will then move to Trinity Lutheran Church at 10014-81 Avenue until April of this year.

Donna Kerr



DANGER: CHICKENHAWK

It seems that President Bush's military record is not what he says it is. In a story the Boston Globe first broke during the 2000 Presidential elections, the President cannot account for one year of National Guard service from May 1972 to May 1973. It seems he never showed up for duty during this time. That would technically make him a deserter. In addition, in 1972 he was suspended from flying because he missed his mandatory medical.

It was a story that went nowhere fast. In a recent Straight Goods article, Linda McQuaig reported: "It's not that the media are not hard on military laggards. While there were only 49 media stories

about Bush's military past during his presidential campaign, there were a whopping 13,641 media reports on Clinton's Vietnam-era draft dodging during his first presidential race, according to former Clinton aide Paul Begala."

The story is coming back to haunt Bush. He has been branded a "chickenhawk" by a number of anti-war and veterans groups. The term chickenhawk (see the definition) was first used by Vietnam War veterans in 1972 to describe the men who were sending them into battle.

The issue surfaced in late 2002 when several prominent Senators and former high-ranking military leaders questioned the Bush administration's lack of actual

war service. Much of the debate has been within the Republican party itself.

The argument against an administration composed mostly of chickenhawks is that men who have not experienced the horrors of war will be too quick to rush into war. In an interview with Newsweek, conservative Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), a Vietnam War Army infantryman with two Purple Hearts, said: "It is interesting to me that many of those who want to rush this country into war and think it would be so quick and easy don't know anything about war. They come at it from an intellectual perspective versus having sat in jungles or foxholes and watched their friends get their heads blown off. I try to speak for those ghosts of the past a little bit."

The other side of the argument is that serving in the military is not, and should not be, a prerequisite for leadership in times of war. Former Republican National Committee communications director Cliff May said: "In the United States, we have civilian control of the military and that's probably a good idea. If you make the case that unless you have served you have no standing on this issue, then you could also argue that

According to the New Hampshire Gazette's chickenhawk database, a chickenhawk is a public person, generally male, who:

1. tends to advocate, or fervently supports those who advocate, military solutions to political problems, and

2. has personally declined to take advantage of a significant opportunity to serve in uniform during wartime.

Some individuals may qualify more for their political associations than for any demonstrated personal tendency towards bellicosity. Some women may be included for exceptional bellicosity.

CHICKENHAWK **C**

I lean back, as the evening darkens and comes on. A chickenhawk floats over, looking for home. I have wasted my life.

JAMES WRIGHT

Donna Kerr

Life so Dear, Peace so Sweet.

March 28

Patrick Henry's speech before the Virginia Convention of Delegates at the start of the American War of Independence, 1775

Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The bat-

tle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat, but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable - and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace - but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased

at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

March 30

George Beardmore, Journal, 1945.

Another rocket [a V2], and worst of the lot, landed at the top of Uppingham Avenue [Harrow]. I remember some time ago cycling down Weston Drive into Uppingham and thinking that if a rocket landed there it would make a right mess. And it had, if only because the damned thing had landed

plumb on all three mains - water, gas, electricity... at 3:40 in the morning, killing nine people, among whom was a nine-year-old boy who had been flung out of bed, through the rafters, and into a back garden ten houses away - at first, nobody had been able to find him.

As I watched the mass funeral (Union Jack, Bishop of Willesden, Civil Defence, Women's Voluntary Service, and the Controllers' cars lined up for three hundred yards) tears came to my eyes, not with the grief and distress caused to survivors but with the incalculable trouble to which they will be put, months and years of it, before they can resume any sort of normal life and the incident becomes only a tale to tell to the grandchildren. Even obtaining an everyday thing like soap has its problems, let alone the replacement of identity cards, ration books, personal papers, with which I can give some help.



DANGER: CHICKENHAWK

It seems that President Bush's military record is not what he says it is. In a story the Boston Globe first broke during the 2000 Presidential elections, the President cannot account for one year of National Guard service from May 1972 to May 1973. It seems he never showed up for duty during this time. That would technically make him a deserter. In addition, in 1972 he was suspended from flying because he missed his mandatory medical.

It was a story that went nowhere fast. In a recent Straight Goods article, Linda McQuaig reported: "It's not that the media are not hard on military laggards. While there were only 49 media stories

about Bush's military past during his presidential campaign, there were a whopping 13,641 media reports on Clinton's Vietnam-era draft dodging during his first presidential race, according to former Clinton aide Paul Begala."

The story is coming back to haunt Bush. He has been branded a "chickenhawk" by a number of anti-war and veterans groups. The term chickenhawk (see the definition) was first used by Vietnam War veterans in 1972 to describe the men who were sending them into battle.

The issue surfaced in late 2002 when several prominent Senators and former high-ranking military leaders questioned the Bush administration's lack of actual

war service. Much of the debate has been within the Republican party itself.

The argument against an administration composed mostly of chickenhawks is that men who have not experienced the horrors of war will be too quick to rush into war. In an interview with Newsweek, conservative Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), a Vietnam War Army infantryman with two Purple Hearts, said: "It is interesting to me that many of those who want to rush this country into war and think it would be so quick and easy don't know anything about war. They come at it from an intellectual perspective versus having sat in jungles or foxholes and watched their friends get their heads blown off. I try to speak for those ghosts of the past a little bit."

The other side of the argument is that serving in the military is not, and should not be, a prerequisite for leadership in times of war. Former Republican National Committee communications director Cliff May said: "In the United States, we have civilian control of the military and that's probably a good idea. If you make the case that unless you have served you have no standing on this issue, then you could also argue that

if you're not a police officer you have no standing on law enforcement issues."

Whichever way you look at it, the issue seems destined to continue to pop up. There are many websites devoted to the topic. There is a \$1,000 reward for anyone who can testify to seeing Bush doing Guard duty during the "missing year." And with the increased opposition to the war on Iraq, opponents to the war are likely to keep resurfacing the chickenhawk label and Bush's missing year.

Donna Kerr

According to the New Hampshire Gazette's chickenhawk database, a chickenhawk is a public person, generally male, who:

1. tends to advocate, or fervently supports those who advocate, military solutions to political problems, and

2. has personally declined to take advantage of a significant opportunity to serve in uniform during wartime.

Some individuals may qualify more for their political associations than for any demonstrated personal tendency towards bellicosity. Some women may be included for exceptional bellicosity.

CHICKENHAWK **C**

I lean back, as the evening darkens and comes on. A chickenhawk floats over, looking for home. I have wasted my life.

JAMES WRIGHT

Life so Dear, Peace so Sweet.

March 28

Patrick Henry's speech before the Virginia Convention of Delegates at the start of the American War of Independence, 1775

Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The bat-

tle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat, but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable - and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace - but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased

at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

March 30

George Beardmore, *Journal*, 1945.

Another rocket [a V2], and worst of the lot, landed at the top of Uppingham Avenue [Harrow]. I remember some time ago cycling down Weston Drive into Uppingham and thinking that if a rocket landed there it would make a right mess. And it had, if only because the damned thing had landed

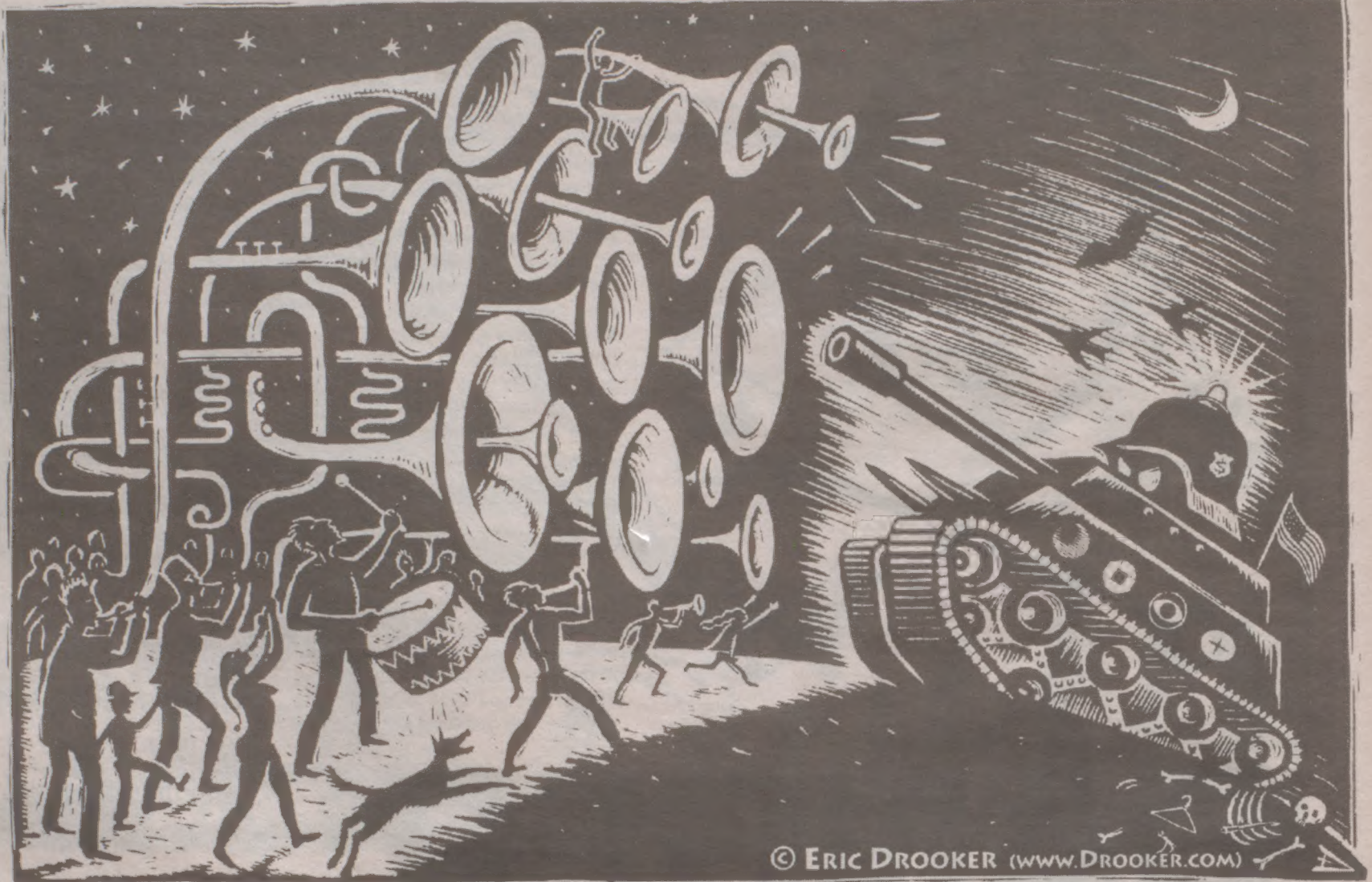
plumb on all three mains - water, gas, electricity... at 3:40 in the morning, killing nine people, among whom was a nine-year-old boy who had been flung out of bed, through the rafters, and into a back garden ten houses away - at first, nobody had been able to find him.

As I watched the mass funeral (Union Jack, Bishop of Willesden, Civil Defence, Women's Voluntary Service, and the Controllers' cars lined up for three hundred yards) tears came to my eyes, not with the grief and distress caused to survivors but with the incalculable trouble to which they will be put, months and years of it, before they can resume any sort of normal life and the incident becomes only a tale to tell to the grandchildren. Even obtaining an everyday thing like soap has its problems, let alone the replacement of identity cards, ration books, personal papers, with which I can give some help.

P PEACE

... **peace** is a militant thing ... any **peace** movement must have behind it a higher passion than the desire for war. No one can be a pacifist without being ready to fight for peace and die for **peace**.

Mary Heaton Vorse



a BUSH - BIN LADEN PRODUCTION in
HYPOCRI-VISION!



"POWERFUL...EXPLOSIVE...RIPPING!" - UK PM Tony Blair.
"GRIPPING...COMPELLING...STAY HOME FOR THIS ONE!
THAT'S AN ORDER..." -Office of Homeland Security.
"BEST PREMIERE THIS FALL!
WE HOPE IT RUNS FOREVER!" - NBC 'Today'



DON'T DO IT.

STOP THE WAR

GENOCIDE ≠ JUSTICE





THE RISING TIDE

Edmonton

It was a cold day in Edmonton (but it could have been worse). Not cold enough to stop approximately 12,000 people from bundling up to hit the streets. The march began and ended at Churchill Square. Just before the 1:00 p.m. start time, it didn't look like that many people had shown up. The square was full, but not packed. Once the march started, however, people came pouring out of buildings where they had been keeping warm. A large number of them were jammed into the library's foyer where the local chapter of the group Food Not Bombs was offering—what else? Free food.

At its peak, the marchers filled two lanes of the road for five blocks. Edmonton police estimated the crowd at 12,000, while organizers estimated 6 - 10,000. It was a peaceful peace march. The police reported no problems except for a lost 10-year-old who was found very quickly. At the end of the march, there were speeches for the hardy souls who stayed to listen.

Worldwide

February 15 was likely the largest global protest in history. Many reports emphasized the diversity of the crowds. Young radicals, people who had never protested before, senior citizens, whole families, rich, poor, all showed up to voice their opposition to war on Iraq. Crowd estimates are very difficult business, but all sources agree that millions of people across the globe hit the streets. The day began

in New Zealand where 10,000 people gathered in Auckland. From time zone to time zone, the marches unfolded at their pre-arranged times in over 600 places. In London, it was the largest political demonstration in Britain's history. Other places have not seen these numbers since the Vietnam War protests. All in all, between eight and 12 million people joined the protests.

The Numbers

The number of protestors in major cities is as follows:

Montreal	150,000
Toronto	15,000
Edmonton	12,000
Calgary	4,000
Vancouver	30,000
Auckland	10,000
Sydney	250,000
Melbourne	150,000
Rome	1,000,000
London	750,000
Dublin	80,000
Berlin	500,000
Barcelona	1,300,000
Madrid	600,000
Damascus	200,000
Oman	200 (1st all-woman demonstration)
Tel Aviv	3,000
Calcutta	10,000
New York	500,000
San Francisco	100,000

The Effect:

Even though President Bush and Prime Minister Blair both stated they will not change their views in spite of the protests, the anti-war movement appears to be having an effect on their popularity ratings.

In a Harris poll released on February 19, President Bush's approval rating has dropped to 52% from 64% a month ago (a 12% drop).

In a February 16 poll, British Prime Minister Blair was rated as satisfactory by only 35% of respondents, down from 49% a month earlier (a 14% drop).

If the War Starts...

In the event of a "dramatic escalation of events" (such as an invasion of Iraq), the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism (the march organizers) are calling for all concerned people to form a "Peace Convergence Zone."

When: 5 p.m. on the day of the invasion

Where: At the south side of Canada Place (97 Street and Jasper Avenue)

What they plan to do: Be visible and loud with signs and placards. Give anti-war information to passersby and drivers as they are stopped at the lights.

"I cannot help but think that the real reason Bush wants us all to buy duct tape is in the hope that we will put it over our mouths and be silent."

— Arlene Distler

POETS FOR PEACE

The artistic community of almost every society that has existed has prided itself on delivering a moral compass for its fellow citizens. That said, it should come as no surprise that the latest military action towards Iraq by our southern neighbours would be met with opposition by poets worldwide.

On January 28 of this year, American poet Sam Hamill sent out a letter in response to Laura Bush's request for his appearance at a White House poetry reading on February 12. Mrs. Bush, the First Lady of the United States, was attempting to organize a poets' symposium entitled "Poetry and the American Voice." Thanks to Mr. Hamill's efforts that symposium has been indefinitely postponed.

Sam Hamill, taking a moral high stand, felt he could in no way condone or support an event without criticizing the Bush administration's actions towards Iraq. As a form of protest, he asked fellow poets to protest the war on Iraq on the very same day as Ms. Bush's proposed event the only way he knew how—by organizing a poetry reading on the very day that the White House proposed their event. The idea caught on, and although the event in Washington was cancelled, on Feb. 12 over 160 cities in North America and many more in Europe held poetry readings against the war.

Billy Collins, US poet laureate, joined the movement immediately stating: "If political protest is urgent, I don't think it needs to await for an appropriate scene and setting

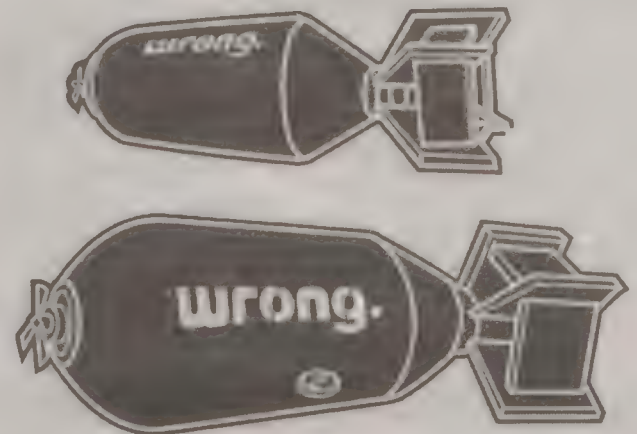


and should be as disruptive as it wants to be." Disruptive? Well, Laura Bush's plans were certainly disrupted and that alone speaks of the success of this artistic protest.

Poets such as former US national laureates Stanley Kunitz and Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize winner W.S. Merwin and state poets like David Allen Evans and Marilyn Nelson all gave poetry and support to the cause. Amiri Baraka, the poet laureate of New Jersey, whose poem on the events of 9-11 brought calls for his resignation, brought further wrath upon himself.

Perhaps the strangest pairing from this movement was the collaboration of playwright Arthur Miller and rapper Mos Def with their "Poets Not Fit For The White House" readings. No less strange was the pairing of Micheal Amireault and Phil "the Cowboy Poet" Jagger for the Edmonton contribution to the Feb. 12 readings. Why is it a strange pairing? Meet both Mr. Amireault and Jagger and you won't need to ask. Both poets have a different style, voice and substance, but on the war in Iraq they are in complete agreement.

Amireault, while searching the web looking for suitable forms of protest, found



COPYRIGHT FREE ANTI-WAR POSTERS FROM WWW.WAKETHEWORLD.ORG

Hamill's site (www.poetsagainstthewar.org) and recognized the need for a local artistic protest. With the aid of Jagger and Naked On Jasper cafe, they organized what proposes to be the first of many readings against the war. The Edmonton event featured Mr. Amireault, Mr. Jagger, Minister Faust and many other poets, some reading for the first time. Donna Bickerstaffe, a first-time reader was inspired by recent events to take the risk and perform. "We all need to speak out and this is a way I can do it," she said.

"We need to bring the issues up front and the arts community is a really good way to bring this to public attention," said Amireault. "Artists should speak out any-

way," said Jagger. "The movement doesn't end with the poetry. Call or write your MP, send letters to Ottawa. All of that is important."

Our local "Poets Against The War" have not ended it either. They plan to continue the readings every second Wednesday of the month at Naked On Jasper for as long as necessary. "We even hope to expand the event artistically," said Amireault. "In the future we would like to add musicians and other forms of art."

The movement continues to roll forth. Let us all pray that the war doesn't.

Dave Dutton-Fraser

P POETS

Poets utter great and wise things which they do not themselves understand.

PLATO
(c. 427-347 B.C.)

STOP YOUR SHOPPING



BOMBS ARE DROPPING

Poster Art: Steven Lyons



FILM **F**

A good film script should be able to do completely without dialogue.

Dan M. ...

the HOURS

Movie Review

As a woman contemplating suicide because of my repressed lesbianism, I found myself assuming the fetal position after watching *The Hours*. I hoped I looked even a fraction as lovely and tragically fragile as Julianne Moore (which is doubtful because I was lying in an explosion of cracker crumbs and wearing long johns). Okay, enough - the only truthful thing I've written so far is that I often munch crackers in the fetal position, wearing long johns - to each their own therapy. Oh yes, and I've seen *The Hours*.

Three exquisite faces dominate this story—all strong and broken at the same time. There is the writer of *The Book*, Mrs. Dalloway; the reader of *The Book*; and a third woman caught in the gravitational pull of *The Book*'s creative legacy. Cryptic, I know, just like every character's love interest and interior life in this film. I found it hard to secure a handle. So, know this—three women, at three different times in history, have their stories told because of their connection to *The Book*. But there's much more that braids their experiences together.

Meryl Streep is once again in her element, playing New York smarty pants Clarissa Vaughn in the "naughties" (2000's). She's jaded, nervy, steely, yet rawly sensitive, vacuuming up nuance that may lead her to, as Evelyn Waugh wrote, "the low door in the wall"—a hid-

den path to real happiness. She's a practicing lesbian but has a many-leveled attachment to Richard Brown (played by the annoyingly-talented-because-I've-seen-him-on-Charlie-Rose-and-know-he's-a-prick Ed Harris). We get fleeting glimpses of the love they once shared, now locked away in their memories, but the negotiated terms allow them to live on the interest. And they need to, because both their lives are in eclipse—his by disease, hers by untraceable ennui, another common bond between the three women.

Let's jump the braid strand to Julianne Moore (who, frankly, blew my mind with her performance). She plays the One Reading *The Book*, Laura Brown, a post WWII housewife. She's a living ghost, somnambulant, breathing air from another world; a hothouse flower who's stumbled into the wrong hothouse. In her changing countenance, we see her soul struggle for life against death, rally and recede under an exhausting repression. Emotions rise and recoil on her beautiful face; she begins to acknowledge something, her eyes narrow in recognition, then she turns her pretty bobbed hair in fright and flattens herself against the arid backdrop of American '40's domesticity. She is reading Mrs. Dalloway and it enchants her. It's as if some hero is cutting a swath through thick thorn walls to her sleeping princess.

The most impenetrable face of all belongs to Virginia Woolf (played by a falsely-nosed Nicole Kidman). Ah, Nicole Kidman, the ice-maid cometh.

Everything in her performance is steady-as-a-falling-rock competent, but nothing more. She delivers, as she always does, that glacier and magma concoction-disciplined but inspired in a cold dawn. It's still all very easy on the eyes—her performance, Stephen Dillane as Leonard Woolf, and the excellent period detail. She, too, gravitates toward a love she cannot possess. Would she want it if she could possess it? Is being beyond her grasp its most riveting quality, escalated to the sublime because it cannot be captured? All three women's hearts cradle this dream (or host this parasite). Life or death, hold or release, kill or be killed by desires that refuse to know you; these forces are (forgive me) the river that runs through this art.

Suicide is a constant presence here, sometimes seducing a life, sometimes tactfully departing. The untraceable ennui has a formidable left hook. But is it untraceable? Is it always simply a love denied, love under a spell that refuses to wake up, though the thorn walls have been leveled and the vanquishing kiss applied? Perhaps the dream of love is a pretty star you hang your hopes on, a star that grows cold and a billion light years away when you realize it was all about you.

Man, how depressing. Time to don the long johns, pull my prone knees to my chest and let my mind wander in a dreamland - and a river of crackers runs through it.

Keyna Laurence

The
untraceable
ennui has a
formidable
left hook.
But is it
untraceable?
Is it always
simply a love
denied, love
under a spell
that refuses to
wake up,
though the
thorn walls
have been
leveled and
the
vanquishing
kiss applied?

POETRY:

Story with a Moral

P POETRY

"Poetry's unnat'ral; no man ever talked poetry 'cept a beadle on boxin' day, or Warren's blackin' or Rowland's oil, or some o' them low fellows; never you let yourself down to talk **poetry**, my boy."

CHARLES DICKENS

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package; what food might it contain? He was aghast to discover that it was a mouse trap!

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mouse trap in the house, there is a mouse trap in the house"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said: "Mr. Mouse, I can tell you this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him: "There is a mouse trap in the house"

I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray; be assured that you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow, who replied: "Like wow, Mr. Mouse, a mouse trap; am I in grave danger. Duh-NOT!"

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected to face the farmer's mouse trap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a mouse trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was going on.

In the darkness, she did not see a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well. In fact, she died, and so many people came for her funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide meat for all of them to eat.

So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when there is a mousetrap in the house, the whole farmyard is at risk.

- Anonymous

Lost Souls

Blue skies
Blackened eyes
Broken down homes
With no telephones
Living running amok
Souls surviving on luck
Life in the gutter
People passing by and shudder
How could life be so rotten?
They'll soon be gone and forgotten
Great Spirit save the lost souls
Bring them back into the folds

Kevin Fox

Without a "Care in the World"

Everybody's Grinning
Everybody's Winning
Everywhere
except me
If I turn a corner
there it is
A grinning face.
A winning smile

When I look up at midday
there's another One. It says.
If I listen to 96.3 in the morning
then I can have
2 almost naked women
in thong bikinis
for my lucky company
Now, asking the right person
that would definitely
give me a winning grin.

When they say "It's only a grin"
let me to feel that way.
Not me" I'd say.
I prefer Bacardi.
Rum, that is."

And you know, they must be right
to make me feel that way.
Because they've plastered
a winning smile
all over
her pretty li'l Bacardi drinking face.

But if everybody is so happy...

I am confused.
Like...
why am I so cold?
I don't even have a blanket.
Where's the smile on my face?
Can't they put a smile on my face too?

Then I wouldn't have to
sleep in your hallway
or down staircases
that block the wind out a little
for the night.

I know it makes you mad
when you find me
in these places
it makes me mad too.

The windy nights
don't matter to you and your Winning grins.
There they are
up and down the street.
Around this corner and that.
In the terminals
at the Greyhound.

Without a "care in the world
You rasten your gaze upon me
With your flashy smile
baring your teeth
You tell me how I
can "get away from it all
But behind that grinning face
I know the truth

This is where you want me to stay.
Cold. And shivering. Looking up at you.
Walking about the
main streets.
Trying to stay warm
You smile away at me
all night long
The seconds tick by.
the hours are long
Instead of going on vacation
maybe
you could put some money together
and build a house
for me.
For me and others
like me.

They would like to smile too
Maybe even laugh
a little.
With you
At you.

But then I think hard.
I say to myself:
No. These smiling faces I look at everywhere
they really don't have a "care in the world".
No. And they don't have a care for me in it.
If it wasn't true... then...
Hmm...
What am I doing out here
freezing?

My face is frozen in a grimace.
Yeah. I'd like to get away
from here alright.
Some place warm.
Some place where I don't have
"a care in the world".
I wonder where that would be.

I'll try and stay warm at this corner.
No. not this one.
Maybe you can answer me this:
If you would rather
have the victory over this misery,
who can I talk to...
just think about it.
Give me a break.
No more smiling faces.
It's too cold. I'm not faking...
I just won't take it.

Casey Hunt

ROMANOW

the future of health care

[excerpts from the report]

The Romanow Report on the future of health care in Canada is a very important document. But the entire report is over 356 pages long and can be heavy slogging. Most of us don't have the time to read the whole thing (even if we should). So we thought we would bring you more "bite-sized" chunks of the report. Here is an excerpt (okay, so it's a pretty big bite!) from the Romanow Report about one of the hot topics of the day, especially here in Alberta-private, for-profit health services.

Private For-Profit Service Delivery: The Debate

One of the most contentious issues facing Canadians is the extent to which the private sector should be involved in delivering health care services. Currently, provincial and territorial governments provide coverage for a range of services and those services can be delivered in any number of ways. Almost all Canadian hospitals are not-for-profit institutions and, in most provinces, are operated by regional health authorities. Most physician services are delivered by what are effectively owner-operated small businesses ranging from single-physician practices to multi-provider clinics that may include a range of health care providers. Large for-profit corporations deliver a narrower range of services including laboratory services and continuing and long-term care.

In the face of continuing pressures on the health care system, some argue that more private for-profit service delivery ought to be introduced in order to bring more resources, choice and competition into the Canadian health care system and to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. Others argue as strongly that the private sector should be completely excluded from health care delivery, suggesting that private for-profit delivery runs counter to Canadians' values, is inequitable, and less cost-effective than public delivery in the long run.

To try to make sense of this debate, it is important to distinguish between two types of services: direct health care services such as medical, diagnostic and surgical care; and ancillary services such as food preparation, cleaning and maintenance. An increasing proportion of ancillary services provided in Canada's not-for-profit hospitals are now contracted out to for-profit corporations. Canadians seem to find this role for private sector companies acceptable and some studies suggest that

these enterprises achieve economies of scale (McFarlane and Prado 2002). Ancillary services are relatively easy to judge in terms of quality - the laundry is either clean or it is not, the cafeteria food is either good or it is not. Consequently, it is relatively easy to judge whether the company is providing the service as promised. Also, there is a greater likelihood that there are competitors in the same business to whom hospitals can turn for laundry or food services if their current contractor is unsatisfactory.

In terms of direct health care services, the precise number of for-profit facilities delivering direct health care services is unknown. One estimate in 1998 (Deber et al.) suggested that there were 300 private for-profit clinics in Canada delivering many diagnostic and therapeutic services formerly provided in hospitals, including abortions, endoscopies, physiotherapy, new reproductive technologies and laser eye surgeries. In addition, there are a growing number of small private for-profit hospitals or stand-alone clinics in some provinces providing more complex surgeries, some requiring overnight stays. These facilities vary considerably in terms of the number of services they offer and their ownership structure. Furthermore, some provinces have expressed an interest in contracting out an increasing number of surgical services to private for-profit hospitals and clinics in the hope of realizing efficiencies.

Unlike ancillary services, direct health care services are very complex and it is difficult to assess their quality without considerable expertise. Indeed, the effects of poorly provided service may not be apparent until some time after the service has been delivered, as in the event of a post-operative complication. This is what most clearly distinguishes direct health care services from ancillary services - a poorly prepared cafeteria meal may be unpleasant, but poor quality surgery is another matter altogether. It is also unlikely that there would be a significant number of competitors able to offer health care services if a given for-profit provider is unsatisfactory. There simply is not a significant surplus of health care administrators or providers waiting in the wings to take over service delivery in a hospital. Thus, if services are of poor quality, it is going to be much harder to find a replacement once public facilities have stopped providing the services - the capacity that existed in the public system will have been lost.

Some suggest that private for-profit delivery is more efficient than not-for-profit delivery (Gratzer 1999 and 2002). Given that most of the private facilities currently operating and being planned focus only on providing a limited range of services, there are some important concerns that must be addressed in terms of

how these facilities interact with the more comprehensive public system. In effect, these facilities "cream-off" those services that can be easily and more inexpensively provided on a volume basis, such as cataract surgery or hernia repair. This leaves the public system to provide the more complicated and expensive services from which it is more difficult to control cost per case. But if something goes wrong with a patient after discharge from a private facility - as a result, for example, of a post-operative infection or medical error - then the patient will likely have to be returned to a public hospital for treatment insofar as private facilities generally do not have the capacity to treat individuals on an intensive care basis. Thus, the public system becomes liable for the care triggered by a poor quality outcome within a private facility, yet under current arrangements there is no way for the public system to recover those costs from the private facility. In other words, the public system is required to provide a "back-up" to the private facilities to ensure quality care.

Proponents of for-profit care may insist that the quality of care is not an issue, but there is evidence from the United States to suggest that the non-profit sector tends to have better quality outcomes than the for-profit sector in such things as nursing home care (Harrington 2001; Marmor et al. 1987) and managed care organizations and hospitals (Kleinke 2001; Gray 1999). More recently, a comprehensive analysis of the various studies that compare not-for-profit and for-profit delivery of services concluded that for-profit hospitals had a significant increase in the risk of death and also tended to employ less highly skilled individuals than did non-profit facilities (Devereaux et al. 2002).

For those reasons, the Commission believes a line should be drawn between ancillary and direct health care services and that direct health care services should be delivered in public and not-for-profit health care facilities.

There are, however, several grey areas around the issue of private for-profit delivery. First, diagnostic services have expanded considerably in the past few years and, in many cases, these services are provided in private facilities under contracts with regional health authorities or provincial governments. Much of this involves relatively routine procedures such as laboratory tests and x-rays that can be done with little delay or wait on the part of the patient. But there appears to be a growing reliance on the private provision of more advanced and expensive diagnostics such as MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging), for which the waiting times in the public system can be frustratingly long because of what appears to be an under-investment in such technology within the public system. The

growth of private advanced diagnostic facilities has permitted individuals to purchase faster service by paying for these services out of their own pocket and using the test results to "jump the queue" back into the public system for treatment. While this is not currently a common occurrence, Canadians made it clear to the Commission that they are deeply concerned about the prospect of this becoming routine (Commission 2002a).

Medicare rests on the principle that an individual's financial resources should not determine access to services. In the Commission's view, governments have a responsibility to guarantee that the public system has sufficient resources to ensure appropriate access to advanced technology. Increased investment within the public system for new diagnostic technology can remove the temptation to "game" the system by individuals and health care providers through the private purchase of diagnostic tests that could allow them to jump the queue.

The second grey area is services provided to workers' compensation clients with job-related injuries and illnesses. Because of the belief that it is important to get these people back to work quickly, these clients get preferential treatment in accessing diagnostic and other health care services over those whose illness or injury is not work related or who may not be formally employed. As suggested in Chapter 2, this current exception under the Canada Health Act should be reconsidered.

The third grey area is contracting out of surgical services. In some cases, regional health authorities have contracted with private for-profit facilities that provide specific surgeries such as cataract and some day surgeries. Again, there is no clear evidence that this practice is more efficient or less costly than providing the services in an adequately resourced not-for-profit facility.

The Commission is strongly of the view that a properly funded public system can continue to provide the high quality services to which Canadians have become accustomed. Rather than subsidize private facilities with public dollars, governments should choose to ensure that the public system has sufficient capacity and is universally accessible. In addition, as discussed in Chapter 11, any decisions about expanding private for-profit delivery could have implications under international trade agreements that need to be considered in advance.

Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada (2002)
Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada - Final Report

HEALTH **H**

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

PEOPLE'S COLUMNIST

Moms & FASD

"Well Community Well Families" is like a guardian angel, supporting pregnant women who are at high risk of delivering FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) babies as a result of using or abusing alcohol during pregnancy. It's an advocacy program offered at Bissell Centre in Edmonton.

The program assists women to reduce the harm to the fetus and improve the overall quality of prenatal care.

FASD is caused by pregnant women drinking alcohol throughout their pregnancy, causing their fetuses to develop birth defects. FASD may result in developmental delay traits such as a small head (microcephaly), subnormal brain growth and abnormal behavioural development.

The Well Community Well Families program was established at Bissell Centre in 1999. It was first modeled after a similar program in Seattle, Washington.

Leo Borrega, Project Manager, and a number of advocates of Well Community Well Families, work with the participants. They essentially follow up on the health of birth moms for up to a period of three years. Their responsibilities to their clients include referring birth moms to an array of social agencies that support women to deliver healthy babies.

Clients who have a history of alcoholism or substance abuse are often referred to an alcohol treatment centre for assessment. The advocates support

the moms to follow through with treatment plans. Mothers are often referred to parenting agencies that teach moms to care for their newborns.

Leo Borrega will go to great lengths in showing his moral support for birth moms at high risk and clients who are diagnosed with FASD. He says: "What's important to remember and is unique about our program is that we establish relationships with birth moms or the adults who are FASD in the long term. It is a three-year commitment to work together. So a large part of our program is about outreach and about advocacy. We stay with them because we acknowledge that the developmental delays or the FASD are not going away. They usually need our support for a very long time."

Birth moms are supported until they become well connected with resources that truly help them. The program focuses on stabilizing areas in participants' lives such as legal status, medical status, mental health needs, employment and finances, family and community connections, child welfare concerns, and family planning.

If you are concerned about your pregnancy and have been abusing alcohol before or throughout your pregnancy and need the support of Well Community Well Families, contact Leo Borrega, Project Manager at 423-2285, ext. 132, Bissell Centre, 10527 - 96 Street, Edmonton, AB T5H 2H6. Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon. to Fri.

John Zapantis



Staff of Well Families Well Communities, Left to Right - Heather Snow, Leo Borrega, Avril Grier

"We establish relationships with birth moms or the adults who are FASD in the long term."

Photo: Russell Timmerman



Tales from The Fox's Den

Will wonders never cease? My kangaroo girl reappeared triumphantly.

The wind on my corner was howling and blowing wildly. I had to look twice to make sure that it was really her. Her long brunette hair was askew, billowing in the strong wind. I think she raided her mom's treasure chest, attired in a bomber-style rabbit coat, unzipped and wearing a flashy orange flowery dress.

She had her cousin in tow, I learned later as she introduced us. After the how do's, I asked her how school was going. "Fine," was her quick answer. "Haven't seen you in a while," she replied sharply. "I came down to your corner but to no avail, you weren't to be found. I was sad you know."

"Sorry I missed you," I replied. The conversation turned quickly to the kangaroos and snails. Kangaroos were getting restless again; something major was in the works. The snails, on the other hand, had met misfortune. It seemed the adult species were dying slowly. There was a huge gap in reproduction because there weren't enough mature snails.

All the while, the cousin is standing perfectly still, watching me absorb this information. Our

My kangaroo's vivid imagination was running wild and acting weird. Planting the seed of the unknown in her mind.

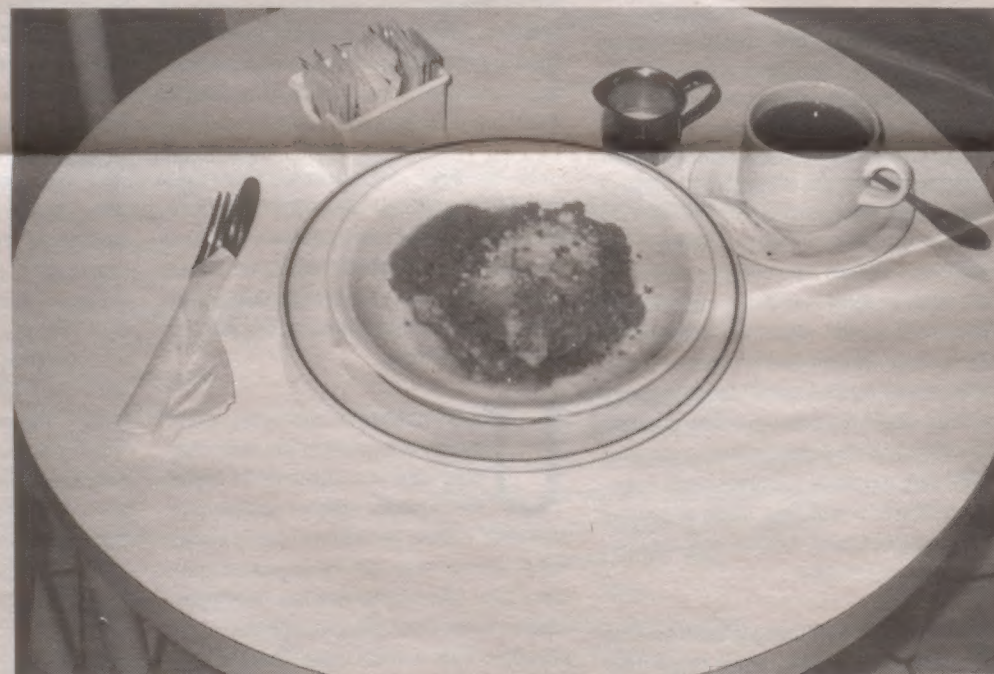
They departed hurriedly, as their bus was pulling up. "See you later." "Goodbye," I replied. Will wonders never cease?

conversation was haphazard, me quizzing her on school and the kangaroo girl intelligence. Fine and smarter than me.

She (the cousin) was curious and a little apprehensive about the "going's on." Abruptly, her older cousin said: "I got to pick up Cujo." Jumping the gun, I said: "Is that the name of your dog?" The girls burst out laughing: "The movie Cujo, from the library." Off they departed, silly grins on their faces.

Returning with movie in tow, the younger girl was babbling about Pet Cemetery. My kangaroo's vivid imagination was running wild and acting weird, planting the seed of the unknown in her mind. They departed hurriedly, as their bus was pulling up. "See you later." "Goodbye," I replied. Will wonders never cease?

Kevin Fox



Lasagna at Zenari's Bistro was an item I really enjoyed.

My Big Fat Greek Appetite

Try walking into Zenari's bistro located at 10180-101 Street, at the Manulife Place building. Then, occasionally, you will witness a fine hostess named Franca, casually greeting her customers with a warm hug and the odd European kiss on both cheeks, that nourishes the souls of her regular customers who feel more like family than customers out for a hungry bite.

If you happen to come into Zenari's for the very first time, and notice the busy servers holding main course items, like lifeless robots doing a zombie walk, you can forget about awakening the walking dead when it comes to getting the attention of the busy waiters and waitresses.

Remember, if you want to be served without any argument, line up at the back of the line-up of awaiting customers always situated to the right side of the front coffee counter. You'll definitely be served when your turn comes.

Lasagna retails for \$7.95. I immensely enjoyed the lasagna. Parmesan cheese sprinkled on top of a melted mozzarella topping accompanied by fat cooked noodles, generous bits of spinach and juicy cooked ground beef, that'll steal the hearts of your taste buds.

Italian half loaf retails for \$3.75. It is also a popular item on the menu. It's a poppy seed fresh half loaf, filled up with layers of mozzarella cheese, rolled up strips of salami, waiting to be accommodated by your hungry taste buds.

Philo Pastry is a golden brown baked crust of wrapping, with an inside consisting of thick generous pieces of baked feta cheese, and thick chopped pieces of fresh ricotta cheese, including thick diced chunks of artichoke.

On the Big Fat Greek Appetite rating scale, I'll give Zenari's bistro 5 out of 5 biscottis. Remember, good service and great food all take time to prepare. You will then notice why the old saying rings true: "Patience is a virtue" at Zenari's.

John Zapantis

EDMONTON

Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board

Call 496-5959



Call if you are a landlord or a tenant that needs:

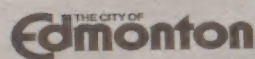
- Advice in residential tenancy matters
- Mediation in a residential tenancy dispute
- Education courses or workshops
- To purchase the Question & Answer Booklet or Forms
- Free Landlord and Tenant fact sheets

Some topics on the information line include:

- General Information
- Laws and Tips
- Security Deposits
- Starting a Tenancy
- Agreements
- Inspection Reports & Security Deposits
- Resolving Disputes
- Notices

Find information fast using
The Landlord and Tenant Information
Line 24 hours a day. Call 496-5959; press
2, then press 1 and
follow the instructions.

City of Edmonton, Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board
Main Floor Chancery Hall
#3 Sir Winston Churchill Square
(Corner of 102A Avenue and 99 Street)
Edmonton, AB T5J 2C3



RBC Dominion Securities

#2300, 10155-102 St.
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2P4
Ph. 944-8851

ROBERT P. CHRISTENSEN PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Barristers and Solicitors
11450-124 Street
Edmonton, AB.

Robert P. Christensen
Russell R. Wilkinson

Phone: 454-0387 Fax: 454-0389

General Practise of Law

HITCH WAREHOUSE

Bus: (403) 944-9209
Fax: (403) 486-4690

John Reil

17220 - 107 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5S 1E5
1-800-661-7557

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For the Inner City

- ▶ Casual Labour
- ▶ Life Management Skills Training
- ▶ Career Counseling
- ▶ Résumé & Cover Letter Preparation
- ▶ Job Interview Skills
- ▶ Internet Training
- ▶ H2S Training (limited funding available)
- ▶ WHMIS/Standard First Aid Training

All services offered at no cost!

CASUAL LABOUR

"Pay the worker -
NOT the broker"

Minimum hourly rate - \$8.00
Minimum 4 hours per day

Workers available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
Bookings taken within work hours
Mon-Thurs: 7am-2pm
Fri: 7am-noon

Need someone to help with...

- ▶ Yard Work/Snow Removal
- ▶ Loading/Unloading
- ▶ Decorating - internal/external
- ▶ Cleaning - domestic/industrial
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ General Labour

All services offered at no cost!

BISSELL CENTRE

Telephone: 424-4385

Or

Casual Labour program for women at
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

Telephone: 421-1175 ext 22
Mon-Fri 7pm-3pm

VOM

VENDOR OF THE MONTH



Monty Patterson

The break up of Monty Patterson's parents during his 3rd grade in school and leaving home at age 13, has turned Monty into a survivor and a very hard-working individual.

The breaks in life have never come easy for Monty. When he was in the 3rd grade in elementary school, his father would constantly abuse alcohol and would frequently argue with his mother. The arguments continued because of his mother's objecting to her husband's excessive alcohol abuse, causing both his parents to file for divorce.

Monty's grieving over the divorce of his parents had him always thinking of his freedom by leaving home and leaving the sad reality of his upbringing behind him.

When Monty was 13, he decided to leave home, ending up on the streets, meeting up with a gang of criminals who influenced him to steal for survival. His association with this element of petty criminals was only for a brief time. Monty would soon graduate from petty stealing to big time robbery.

When he was 16, Monty was given a lucrative offer by the leader of an organized car ring, operating out of Red Deer, Alberta. The leader agreed to offer the young 16-year-old \$50 for every car stolen from a Calgary car lot and brought back to the leader in Red Deer, Alberta.

Monty would hike up to Calgary during the evenings. He would then jimmy the cars with a special key that was supplied to him by the leader of this car ring. The cars that were stolen were cars targeted for the heists at various Calgary car dealerships.

Although Monty became very successful at this risky business, he managed to get out of it 7 months later. Monty decided that a life of crime was no way to live a decent life. He then accepted a

decent job offered by a rancher, breaking horses, cleaning and feeding them. The job paid \$600 a month. The offer also included free room and board. He was employed at this job for a 7-month period.

Monty also worked briefly for 6 months on a dairy farm as a farm hand milking cows. Monty had achieved enough honest work experience in the industry that prosperity would soon be arriving at his door.

When Monty was 18, he found employment in the oil patch and successfully worked at an array of positions during the next 12 years of his life. The jobs included working as a roughneck and a labourer on the pipelines.

Monty's work accomplishments eventually made for a great résumé, and by the age of 30, he landed a job working as a janitor. He was employed at that job for 22 years until a mild heart attack made his productive career as a janitor come to an abrupt end, at age 52.

His doctor, to this day, suggests that he not do any lifting, and that he essentially should work at less strenuous jobs.

In October of 2002, Monty heard about a friend's success vending Our Voice. His friend's success as a vendor served as a moral example and a wonderful challenge in selling the magazine.

Monty decided to join the ranks of many Our Voice vendors. He's been selling ever since.

When Monty is not vending, he certainly loves to read about the interesting stories that Our Voice features every month. He says: "I would like to see more stories on housing for the homeless because there isn't enough subsidized accommodation for people like me on a fixed income."

John Zapantis

When Monty is not vending, he certainly loves to read about the interesting stories that Our Voice features every month.



Bissell Centre's
Thrift Shoppes

New and
Gently-Used
Fashions
plus.....

- furniture • home goods
- jewellery • collectibles
- antiques

the best quality
lowest prices

We are 100% non-profit
and locally owned
No GST ever

ALL PROFITS SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES OF BISSELL CENTRE
IN EDMONTON'S INNER CITY

8818 118 Ave
471-6644

9232 34 Ave
440-1883

BOTH STORES
ARE OPEN SEVEN
DAYS A WEEK

NO BLOOD



FOR OIL